

## REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that this amendment, correcting certain claim dependencies be entered by the Examiner. Entry of this amendment will place the application in better form for appeal.

## CONCLUSION

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 23, 2002

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**APPENDIX TO AMENDMENT FILED DECEMBER 23, 2002**

16. A process according to claim [1] 15, wherein the molar quantity of sulphuric acid relative to the 2-hydroxy-4-methylthiobutyronitrile is between 0.7 and 0.85.
17. A process according to claim [1] 15, wherein the medium of the hydrating step (a) contains less than 5% by weight of 2-hydroxy-4-methylthiobutyric acid.
18. A process according to claim [1] 15, wherein the medium of the hydrating step (a) contains less than 2% by weight of 2-hydroxy-4-methylthiobutyric acid.
19. A process according to claim [1] 15, wherein the medium of the hydrating step (a) contains more than 95% by weight of 2-hydroxy-4-methylthiobutyramide.
20. A process according to claim [1] 15, wherein the medium of the hydrating step (a) contains more than 98% by weight of 2-hydroxy-4-methylthiobutyramide.
21. A process according to claim [1] 15, wherein the molar quantity of water to 2-hydroxy-4-methylthiobutyronitrile is between 1 and 2.5.
22. A process according to claim [1] 15, wherein the hydrating step (a) is carried out at a temperature ranging between 0 to 50°C.
23. A process according to claim [1] 15, wherein the hydrating step (a) is carried out at a pressure ranging between 0.01 and 1.0 bar.
24. A process according to claim [1] 15, wherein during the hydrolyzing step (b) a sufficient quantity of water is added in order to maintain the reaction mass in a homogeneous form.
26. A process according to claim [1] 15, wherein the hydrolyzing step (b) is carried out at temperature ranging between 90 and 130°C.
27. A process according to claim [1] 15, wherein the hydrolyzing step (b) is carried out at pressure ranging between 0.5 and 5 bar.

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